



#### **OFFICERS**

Roger Kaye  
President

Joe Kuehn  
Vice-President

Richard van Pelt  
Secretary

Susan Watkins  
Treasurer

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Laurel Hines  
Carla Mikkelson  
Linda Peterson  
Kasia Quillinan

April 16, 2015

House Committee On Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to HB2666 -

Establishes process for county to evaluate whether proposed mining use causes significant change or significant increase in cost when federal or state agency has not issued permit authorizing proposed mining use.

Requires county to find that proposed mining use does not force significant change in accepted farm or forest practice or significantly increase cost of accepted farm or forest practices if mining use complies with applicable federal, state and local environmental standards.

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

Our organization and its individual members are opposed to HB2666 and request a "NO" vote.

Friends of Marion County is a 501(c)3 farmland protection organization founded in 1998. Our mission is to protect farm and forestland, parks, and open space.

There are several reasons we oppose this bill. We will list a few.

1. The mining industry claims that only ½ of 1% of Willamette Valley farmland has been used for aggregate mining. The Willamette Valley extends from Portland to Eugene, about 150 mi, long and 30 mi. wide. Please don't be fooled that this is a mere trifle. This amounts to 14,400 ac. or approx. ½ the size of the City of Salem. This is a huge amount of farmland consumed which can never be remediated to agricultural use.

2. HB2666 prevents effected citizens from rendering testimony unless they own property surrounding the proposed mine. No longer can citizens voice concerns about transportation to and from the mine that would adversely effect their own farming operations. Remember, mines generate a great deal of year around heavy truck traffic. This bill will take the land out of the base of Oregon's #2 *industry* – agriculture.

3. HB2666 essentially stipulates that surrounding farm property owners must show that they are unable to undertake any farm practice. Thus farm property owners may find the investment in their current practice may be lost.

HB2666 takes irreplaceable farm land out of production. With the ongoing drought conditions, we need to preserve every acre of farmland possible.

HB2666 is ill conceived and a real threat to Oregon's landscape. We therefore request a "NO" vote on this measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roger Kaye, President  
(503)743-4567  
rkaye2@gmail.com